

NEWS CGIAR

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CONTACT: Heinrich von Loesch
Tel: (202) 473 3553

**CGIAR DEFINES ITS ROLE IN AGENDA 21 IMPLEMENTATION, ENDORSES
ECOREGIONAL APPROACH AND STREAMLINES ITS STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS**

Washington, Oct. 29-- Improvement and use of marginal lands, in situ conservation of plant genetic resources, and integrated pest management were identified by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research as the main areas of its future contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, the action program adopted by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In defining the Group's future priorities and strategies, the CGIAR at its annual Washington meeting--International Centers Week--also strongly encouraged the implementation of the ecoregional approach to agricultural development as a major CGIAR innovation.

The meeting, which ended today, was attended by some 400 representatives of 41 public and private donors, observers, and senior executives of the 18 member research centers.

The Group approved 1994 core programs for its centers that will require funding of 227.7 million US dollars. An additional 1.2 million dollars will be required for external reviews, bringing the total up to 228.9 million dollars. The CGIAR Secretariat estimates

Mailing Address:
1818 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20433, USA

Telephone: (202) 334 8028
Telex: 440098 World Bank
FAX (202) 334 8750

Office Location:
801 19th Street, N.W.

the actual pledges for 1994 at 220 to 225 million dollars. If the amount pledged differs from the approved amount, center budgets will be proportionately adjusted, according to the meeting's report.

The total core support provided by donors for 1993 was 234 million dollars (1992: 247 million dollars). The Group recognized that the continuing trend toward budget decreases in real terms makes a repositioning of CGIAR programs and institutions inevitable. It requested its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to examine center programs and develop options for restructuring.

As a step in this direction, the Group agreed that programs at the existing two livestock centers in Africa will form the nucleus of a new, single entity for livestock research, the Center for International Research on Livestock (CIRL). A donor agency will assist in implementing the change.